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CONTACT REPORT

GEROCK and []
Brucke, 1230-1915 hours
14 January 1964

ATTACHMENT TO:

EGMA-63638
17 January 1964

1. At [] party on 10 January Brock approached me and almost before he had said hello began to spout off about the poor morale at CATIDE and the inadequacies of UTILITY. He hardly bothered to lower his voice, and since a number of other CATIDERS including DEBRAU were only a few yards away, I hushed him up and made an appointment to meet him a few days later.

2. My meeting with Brock was held at the Brucke on 14 January. Brock was in a rare mood and seemed to have an absolute compulsion to talk. He dished up the dirt on CATIDE for over two hours. He said he wanted to pass me this information because he was very concerned at morale in CATIDE and the future of RUMARK/CATIDE relations. He admitted that some of the information he gave me was hearsay and rumor, but said he knew for a fact that most of it was correct. The conversation rambled around a good deal and for the sake of clarity I have considerably reorganized it.

3. UTILITY was the first topic discussed and [] comments about him were not very flattering. The following were his main points:

a. UTILITY's sole interest these days is staying in office until he reaches retirement age in 1965. His pride will not let him resign earlier. In order to shore up his position, he spends practically all his time hobnobbing with Bundestag delegates and senior officials in Bonn.

b. Since Erhard took over the chancellorship, he has not met UTILITY a single time, and UTILITY has felt himself humiliated by this. However, UTILITY does not expect that Erhard will replace him prior to the elections in the fall of 1964, and then he will be almost at retirement age. UTILITY desires to play the role of elder statesman in the German intelligence field after retirement.

c. Despite UTILITY's long absences and preoccupation with his own position, he will not let anyone else make major decisions at CATIDE. The result is that CATIDE simply drifts without decisions being made. For instance, some months ago THAMSEN submitted to UTILITY a proposed CART program for the Winter Olympics in Innsbruck. UTILITY never made any decision and possibly never even read THAMSEN's paper. Now nothing is being done.

d. UTILITY's personnel policies, especially his notorious preference for relatives and old cronies, has had a very damaging effect on morale at CATIDE. UTILITY seldom makes personnel assignments on the basis of merit or suitability. Far more frequently he acts on the basis of personal favoritism, repayment of obligations, or a desire to get rid of officers who have displeased him.

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4. As a result of the above factors, Brock said that morale at CATIDE has dropped to the lowest point ever. The wildest rumors are circulating, sometimes at very high levels. One of the latest ones is that UTILITY was once connected with the Rote Kapelle. Another is that he is trying to arrange a second Papallo. Still another is that President Johnson suggested to Eshard at their recent meeting that it would be a good idea to fire UTILITY. The younger CATIDE officers (among whom Brock numbers himself), are especially disaffected, and Brock said that if Germany were a Latin American country they would certainly have organized a palace revolution by now. Brock described the period CATIDE is going through as an agony for all concerned. Nor did he expect things to get better until a new chief of CATIDE was appointed and most of the present leadership retired or swept away.

5. Returning to UTILITY, Brock stated that he remains acutely suspicious of KUBARK and is convinced that KUBARK is out to get him. I asked if [] talk with UTILITY at Christmas time had changed the situation, and Brock said that if it had he had seen no evidence of it. Brock said he had not talked to UTILITY after [] visit, but had noticed that the decisions made by UTILITY since the visit were still in accord with the policies he laid down before the visit. (Brock plainly did not have a clue as to what [] had discussed with UTILITY.)

6. Brock said that one of UTILITY's main grievances against KUBARK is his belief that some of our people in Bonn, especially [] are passing derogatory information to the newspapers about him. Brock said that UTILITY is especially suspicious of [] contact with Jakob Stachle of the Stern and an Associated Press correspondent in Bonn whom UTILITY previously traced with [] (This is Carl Flick-Steger, [] Brock said he suspected that CHOLEN was responsible for whispering stories about [] in UTILITY's ear.

7. A second reason for UTILITY's feelings about KUBARK is his continued resentment of our treatment of []. Brock said UTILITY believes the decision not to accept [] was made by a cabal of mid-level KUBARK officers who are prejudiced against UTILITY and took this opportunity to strike at him. UTILITY also believes the decision was made without [] hearing of it. Brock said that UTILITY gave out the story at CATIDE that he had decided to send [] to Paris instead of Washington because the Paris job was more important. However, the true story has leaked out and it is now common knowledge that KUBARK turned [] down for security reasons.

8. Brock admitted that he did not have all the background on the Spiegel/Pallex affair, but said that this had also embittered UTILITY and added to his suspicions of KUBARK. UTILITY knows that Adenauer tried to get rid of him and he believes that Franz Josef Strauss put Adenauer up to this. UTILITY suspects that KUBARK and the Israeli IS were behind Strauss. Brock said that UTILITY considers Strauss his No. 1 enemy.

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9. Brock next switched to GURNEY and his situation in the U.S. He said that contrary to Kuehn's statements to KUBARKers he was unhappy in the U.S. The reason for this is that he has far too little to do. He meets [] for lunch once every other week and between times has nothing to do but attend a few briefings put on by low level KUEHN types. This does not come close to making up a workload for a Major General. A point of personal irritation to Kuehn is his belief that the British and French representatives in Washington operate on a higher level than he does. He believes that the British and French representatives see [] frequently and are consulted on important policy matters. He himself, he says, is handled by the German desk of the Deschaffing.

10. Brock's next target was Dessau. He said that Dessau is a pitiful case and in an impossible situation at CATIE. His two chief subordinates, GURNEY and GURNEY, consider him a complete incompetent and have all but refused to work for him. UTILITY pays no attention to Dessau and considers him a disposal problem. After the suicide of Dessau's son, UTILITY toyed with the idea of getting rid of him by making him his representative in Australia. Then he sent Dessau on a long tour of the Far East. More recently, he scheduled Dessau for a long trip to Latin America, again only to get him out of sight. UTILITY's latest wrinkle is to send Dessau to the U.S. in place of GURNEY, who will be laid up for at least six months and may never again regain full activity.

11. It became obvious at this point that Brock's main reason for talking to me was his desire to keep Dessau from going to Washington. He declared that such an appointment would be a disaster for both KUBARK and CATIE. He said that Dessau had absolutely no influence on UTILITY and that no one in CATIE would pay any attention to what he reported from Washington. In his present state, Dessau would also give the KUBARK officers he dealt with a very poor impression of CATIE. Thus, instead of having a man in Washington who could improve relations between KUBARK and CATIE during the next critical years, Dessau's appointment would lead to KUBARK and CATIE drifting further apart. With some bitterness, Brock remarked that UTILITY knew that Dessau was not a suitable man for the Washington job, but Dessau was a disposal problem and in his present mood UTILITY did not mind pushing him off on KUBARK.

12. GURNEY, Brock said, was the proper man for the Washington job. He had UTILITY's confidence and UTILITY would listen to what he reported from Washington. His energy and intelligence would also favorably impress the KUBARKers he met. Brock said that he had had several meetings with Hartwig and had urged him to try to get UTILITY to veto Dessau's appointment and volunteer for the job himself. However, Hartwig had been non-committal.

13. Returning to [] Brock said that [] was trying to get moved to Paris as rapidly as he could. He realized that if he was still at CATIE Headquarters when UTILITY departed, his ticket to Paris would probably be replaced with one back to the Bundeswehr. However, if he once got to Paris he hoped to hang on there for sometime at least. Brock said that the French

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had been no more eager to accept [] than we were, but that out of deference to UTILITY they had smiled and taken him.

14. Brock said that the present CATIDE representative in Paris, [] in returning to CATIDE Headquarters about 15 February to take over as Chief of Foreign Liaison from Mortens. [] speaks French fluently and is a great admirer of the French. However, he is not equally fond of KUBARK and Brock predicted that things would not go so smoothly for us after he takes charge.

15. Brock himself, if present plans are firmed up, will leave during the summer to take over a CE Dienststelle in Hamburg. He is happy and looking forward to the assignment. The only thing that could hold up his transfer is the problem of placing the present holder of the job. This gentleman, whose name Brock did not mention, has a very high grade but not the ability to match it. He has to be placed somewhere, but there are very few vacancies at his grade level.

16. Brock said his replacement has not yet been selected. One of the candidates is GUY also known as GAUSSER. Brock said he did not remember Guy's true name but his brother was a bishop of either Regensburg or Passau. Brock said that Guy had worked with KUBARKers before and was friendly to us. Brock therefore hoped that he would get the job.

17. Almost the last point Brock touched on was the problem of UTILITY's successor. He said that due to the present state of morale at CATIDE and UTILITY's "lame duck" administration, rumors about the succession are flying thick and fast. The most widely spread story is that UTILITY will be succeeded by a political personage of the Brent calibre. His deputy would then be an active military officer, the most likely candidates being Holm or General Vessel. Brock said he thought Holm would continue to play a leading role in CATIDE no matter who took over. Judging by the way the British have been cottoning up to Holm lately, Brock said he believes they think so too. Brock said many people think that Vessel is the KUBARK candidate for UTILITY's job. Possibly this is due to Vessel's present assignment in the U.S.

18. By the time we had gotten this far we had talked over two hours. Several times Brock repeated that he was telling me these things only because of his concern at the state of KUBARK/CATIDE relations and his fear that relations were getting worse instead of better. I promised to hold his remarks in strict confidence and asked if he would be willing to continue our conversation at a later date. He repeated readily. He also said he wanted to introduce me to some of his non-CATIDE friends in Munich before he leaves and to get together again socially very soon.

Typed: 16 January 1964

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